

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ANKARA 03231 281501Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01
ACDA-07 COME-00 CU-02 /062 W
-----281510Z 029471 /50

O R 281404Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7322
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
EUCOM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ANKARA 3231

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, TU
SUBJECT: FURTHER ATTACKS ON ECEVIT'S CAMPAIGN CONVOY

REF: ANKARA 3170 (DTG 271153Z APR 77)

1. THE APRIL 26 ATTACK ON THE CAMPAIGN BUS OF REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) LEADER ECEVIT IN NIKSAR (REFTEL) WAS FOLLOWED BY MORE SERIOUS VIOLENCE APRIL 27 IN CONNECTION WITH THE CAMPAIGN CONVOY'S ARRIVAL IN SIRAN (GUNUSHANE PROVINCE). LESSER INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN RESADIYE (TOKAT) APRIL 27 AND IN ERZINCAN APRIL 28. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE SIRAN INCIDENT LEFT 15-30 INJURED (THREE OR FOUR OF THEM SERIOUSLY), INCLUDING RPP SENATOR UNSAL AND RPP NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY SALTIK. THIRTY VEHICLES IN THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ANKARA 03231 281501Z

CONVOY WERE REPORTEDLY DESTROYED, IN MOST CASES BURNED, AND 20 TO 30 BUILDINGS WERE DAMAGED. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT TRAVELING WITH THE CONVOY, NO POLICE WERE IN EVIDENCE DURING MOST OF THE TIME THE VIOLENCE CONTINUED.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, THE ATMOSPHERE IN SIRAN HAD ALREADY BEEN TENSE BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THE CONVOY DUE TO

FIGHTING WHICH HAD BROKEN OUT THE PREVIOUS NIGHT BETWEEN RPP AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) YOUTHS. THE APRIL 27 VIOLENCE BEGAN WITH FIGHTING BETWEEN RPP SUPPORTERS AND A CROWD OF NAP YOUTH WHO HAD GATHERED AT THE MUNICIPAL SQUARE IN FRONT OF JUSTICE PARTY (JP) HEADQUARTERS AND WERE SHOUTING ANTI-ECEVIT SLOGANS. ALTHOUGH FIGHTING AT FIRST INVOLVED ONLY STONES AND CLUBS, SOME OF THE NAP YOUTH APPARENTLY BEGAN FIRING PISTOLS AS THEIR SIDE BEGAN TO GET THE WORST OF THE FIGHTING. THE VIOLENCE REPORTEDLY SPREAD AS THE RPP CARAVAN ENTERED THE TOWN AND BECAME INVOLVED IN THE FRAY. SEN. UNSAL AND ASSEMBLY MEMBER SALTİK WERE APPARENTLY AMONG THOSE WHO DREW AND FIRED THEIR PISTOLS, WITH UNSAL CLAIMING THAT ONE OF THE PERSONS WHO ATTACKED HIM HAD BEEN ARMED WITH AN AX. APPROXIMATELY 50 GUNSHOTS WERE HEARD DURING THE MELEE, WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY QUELLED BY THE ARRIVAL OF GENDARMERIE REINFORCEMENTS. ALTHOUGH ECEVIT REPORTEDLY STOOD WITH THE REST OF HIS PARTY IN FRONT OF THE CAMPAIGN BUS DURING MUCH OF THE FIGHTING, HE WAS PERSUADED TO TAKE SHELTER IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AFTER THE RPP SIDE RAN OUT OF BULLETS.

3. IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE NIKSAR INCIDENT, ABOUT 30 PERSONS WERE REPORTED DETAINED, INCLUDING THE PRINCIPALS AND VICE PRINCIPALS OF THREE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS, AND SIX PERSONS (PARTY AFFILIATION UNDISCLOSED) WERE FORMALLY ARRESTED. THE NATIONAL PROSECUTOR STATED (ACCORDING TO APRIL 28 MEDIA REPORTS) THAT SECURITY OFFICIALS WERE GUILTY OF "GROSS NEGLIGENCE" IN ALLOWING THE NIKSAR EVENT TO OCCUR, AND THE RPP ANNOUNCED THAT A LAWSUIT WOULD BE FILED AGAINST MINISTER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ANKARA 03231 281501Z

INTERIOR OZBEK. ECEVIT CHARGED DURING A SPEECH APRIL 27 (BEFORE SIRAN) THAT THE NIKSAR INCIDENT HAD BEEN ORGANIZED BY FORMER NIKSAR HEADMAN, DEPUTY MINISTER OF INTERIOR RIZA AKDENİZ (PRESENTLY A CANDIDATE FOR THE NAP NOMINATION FOR THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) AND ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS GUILTY OF NOT TAKING PROPER SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. IN ANOTHER SPEECH, ECEVIT SAID, "THEY ARE TRYING TO DO IN TURKEY WHAT A GREEK GUERRILLA FAILED TO DO IN AMERICA" (REFERRING TO THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT DURING ECEVIT'S VISIT TO NEW YORK LAST YEAR). RPP PARTY OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF APRIL 28 THAT DESPITE THE CONTINUING VIOLENT INCIDENTS, ECEVIT HAD NO INTENTION OF ABANDONING HIS PLANS FOR ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING.

4. PRIMIN DEMIREL IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS CALLED THE NIKSAR INCIDENT "EXTREMELY REGRETTABLE" AND SAID "WE ARE AGAINST THE USE OF VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND...THE POLITICAL PARTIES MUST BE EXTREMELY CAREFUL; THEY MUST NOT BE PROVOCATIVE." JP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MENTESE CHARGED THAT ECEVIT WANTS INCIDENTS TO OCCUR DURING THE CAMPAIGN AND IS

GOING OUT OF HIS WAY TO SEEK THEM. NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN CUMALIOGLU TOLD THE PRESS THAT "THE JP AND
NAP, WHO HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING, ARE MAKING ECEVIT
A HERO THROUGH VIOLENCE. THIS IS A MISTAKE." NAP
SPOKESMEN SAID THEIR PARTY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NIKSAR
INCIDENT, WHICH THEY BLAMED ON MAOISTS.

5. COMMENT: EAST-CENTRAL ANATOLIA, WITH ITS SIMMERING
ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS RIVALRIES, WAS A LIKELY PLACE FOR ECEVIT
TO FIND TROUBLE. HOWEVER, THE INCIDENTS THERE SEEM LIKELY TO
HAVE A NATIONWIDE IMPACT. UNLESS SECURITY FORCES PROVIDE
REASONABLE PROTECTION FOR FUTURE CAMPAIGN TRIPS, THE POTENTIAL
FOR FURTHER SERIOUS CAMPAIGN VIOLENCE SEEMS LIKELY TO RISE.
MACOMBER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, THREATS, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA03231
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770148-1153
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770411/aaaaajcp.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d343e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 3170
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2672437
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FURTHER ATTACKS ON ECEVIT'S CAMPAIGN CONVOY
TAGS: PINT, TU, (ECEVIT, BULENT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d343e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009